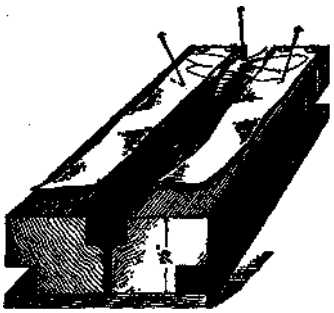

distance. As a rule, the wings of all specimens should be mounted at a uniform elevation of about seven eighths of an inch above the point of the pin. This is known as the " continental method " of mounting, and is infinitely preferable to the old-fashioned "English method," in which the insect was pinned low down upon the pin, so that its wings touched the surface of the box.

Setting-blocks are most advantageously employed in setting small species, especially the *Hesperidce,* the wings of which are refractory. When the insect has been pinned upon the setting-board or setting-block, the next step is to set the wings in the position which they are to maintain when the specimen is thoroughly dry. This is accomplished by means of what are known as " setting-needles" (Fig. 56). Setting-needles may be easily made by simply sticking ordinary needles into wooden matches from which the tips have been removed. In drawing the wings into position, care should be taken to plant the setting-needle behind the strong nervure on the costal margin of the wing; otherwise the wings are liable to be torn and disfigured. The rule in setting lepidoptera is to draw the anterior wing forward in front of the hind wing, and the hind wing backward behind the anterior wing.

Setti board desi d by the author. The f8"* are ^ld in £lace *>y *trips/>f r tracing-muslin, such as is used by engineers. The grooves at the side of the block; B, slit to hold

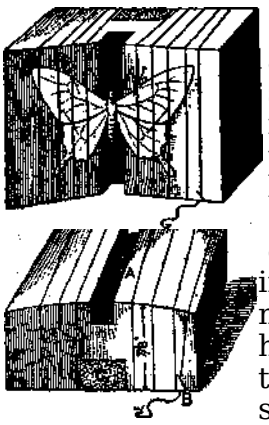

FIG. 54.-Setting-block: A, holes to enable the pin to reach to the cork; C, cork.

FIG. 55.— Setting-block with filling groove on the bottom

and
thread.

a manner that the posterior margin of this wing is at right angles to the axis of the body, the axis of the body being a line drawn through the head to the extremity of the abdomen. The hind wing should then be moved forward, its anterior margin lying under the opposing margin of the front wing. When the wings have thus